

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 21548 310222Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CA-01 AID-05 VO-05  
CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00  
INR-10 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12  
ARA-10 SSO-00 INRE-00 /092 W  
-----021110 310226Z /70/16

O 290439Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8508  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21548

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (NEXT TO LAST LINE PARA 4 OMITTED)

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: ASEAN, EGEN, SREF, TH  
SUBJ: U.S.-ASEAN MEETING: INDOCHINA REFUGEES

REF BANGKOK 21516

1. IN JULY 28 DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE, MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY ARUN WHO HAD JUST  
RETURNED FROM MANILA, INDICATED THAT OVERALL ASEAN  
POSITIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS FOR MINISTERIAL WOULD BE  
"QUITE STANDARD AND PREDICTABLE." ARUN SAID HOWEVER  
THAT ASEAN DELEGATIONS ARE HOPING FOR A SOMEWHAT MORE  
POSITIVE U.S. RESPONSE TO THEIR VIEWS ON ECONOMIC  
QUESTIONS THAN WAS THE CASE IN THE PAST.

2. WITH REGARD TO REFUGEE ITEM, ARUN SAID THAT  
FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WOULD BE CALLING FOR USG  
SUPPORT FOR A LONG-TERM "POOLING ARRANGEMENT" AMONG  
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THE COUNTRIES ACCEPTING INDOCHINA REFUGEES. ARUN  
SAID THAT THE RTG HOPES THAT THE U.S., FRANCE,  
AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD MAKE A  
LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO TAKE A GIVEN NUMBER OF  
REFUGEES EACH YEAR FROM THAILAND AND THE OTHER ASEAN  
COUNTRIES. ARUN EXPLAINED THIS WOULD ALLOW AN  
ORDERLY REFUGEE OUTFLOW. IT WOULD ALSO PERMIT THE

ASEAN COUNTRIES TO BETTER ASSESS THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE WITH REGARD TO THE REFUGEES AS WELL AS MAKE THEIR OWN LONG-TERM DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO FURTHER HANDLING OF REFUGEES.

3. CHARGE INDICATED THAT AS RTG WAS AWARE WE HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM FOR 25,000 PAROLE NUMBERS THIS YEAR AND MADE CLEAR OUR INTENTION TO SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF A LONGER RANGE REFUGEE PROGRAM. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. CHARGE NOTED HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD SEEM DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS SUCH A PROPOSAL CONCRETELY IN THE ASEAN-U.W. CONTEXT.

4. ARUN READILY ACKNOWLEDGED ABOVE POINTS BUT SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT WOULD AT LEAST HOPE THAT USG COULD INDICATE ITS SUPPORT FOR SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WERE UNDOUBTEDLY MANY CONCRETE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE THAI PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK HAVE IN THE PAST BROUGHT UP VARIANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL "POOLING ARRANGEMENTS" PROPOSAL DESCRIBED BY ARUN. AS ARUN ACKNOWLEDGED THE RTG, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ASSUME THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, KNOW THE USG CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF OR OTHER COUNTRIES AT THIS POINT TO SUCH A FUTURE PROGRAM. AT THE SAME TIME AS BOTH WE AND EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR HAVE INDICATED IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE THAI AND OTHERS DO COME AWAY FROM WASHINGTON MEETING WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR INTENTION TO SEEK A LONG-TERM REFUGEE ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM. O'DONOHUE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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